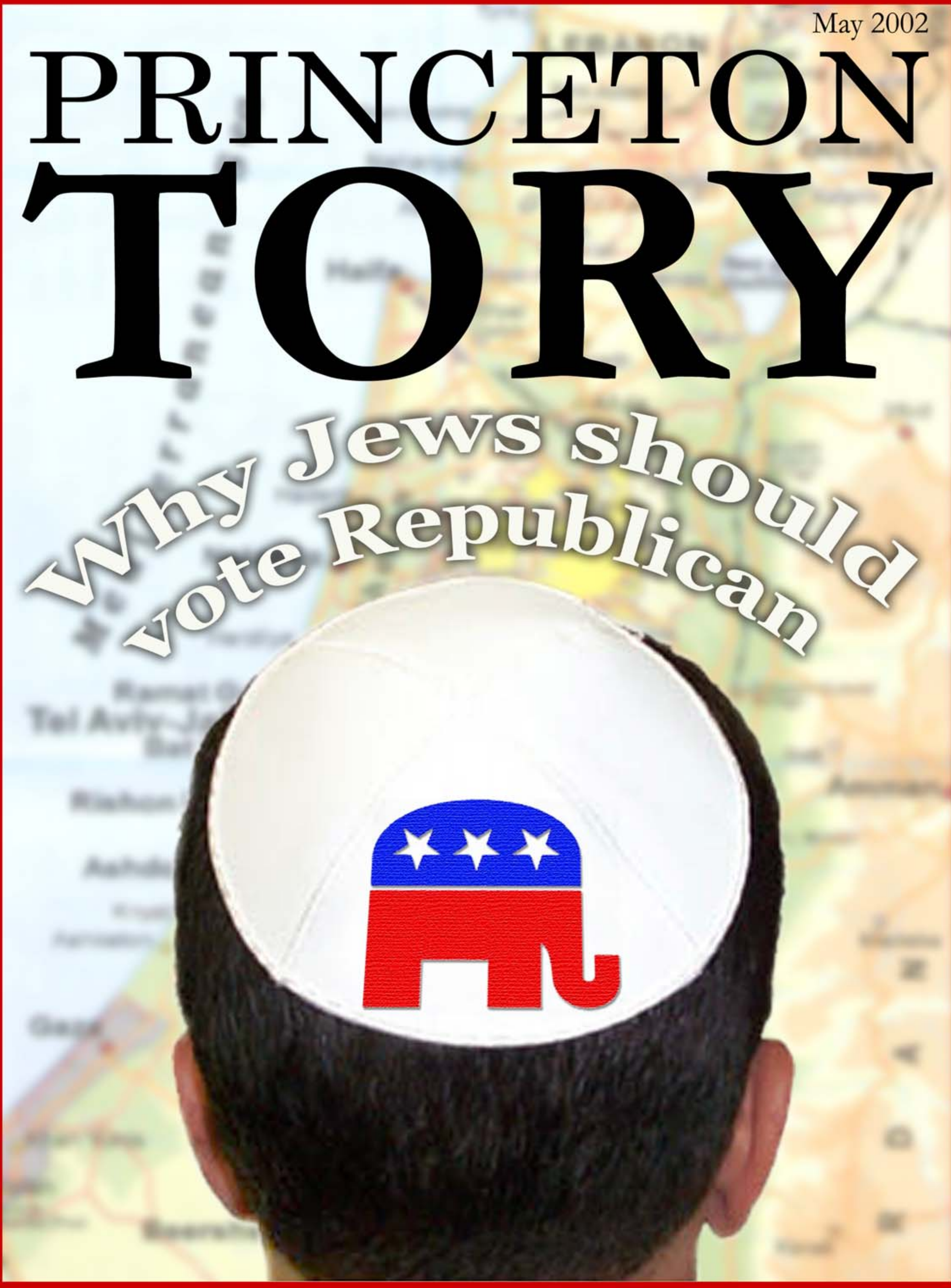
May 2002

PRINCETON TORY

Why Jews should vote Republican



THE PRINCETON TORY

May 2002
Volume XIX - Number 3

The Princeton Tory is a journal of conservative and moderate political thought written, edited and produced by Princeton University students and delivered free of charge to all Princeton students and faculty. *The Princeton Tory* is a publication of The Princeton Tory, Inc. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the editors, trustees, Princeton University, or the Princeton Tory, Inc.

The Princeton Tory accepts letters to the editor. Direct correspondence to: P.O. Box 1499, Princeton, NJ 08542; or by e-mail: tory@Princeton.edu.

Advertisement rates for *The Princeton Tory* are: $75 for a quarter page, $110 for a half page, $200 for a full page, and $300 for the back cover.

Donations to *The Princeton Tory* are fully tax-deductible. Please mail donations to: P.O. Box 1499, Princeton, NJ 08542.

The Princeton Tory is a member of the Collegiate Network. *The Princeton Tory* gives special thanks to the Intercollegiate Studies Institute, Princeton Alumni Viewpoints, and USG Projects Board.

Notes from the Publisher

I'd like to make a modest proposal—how about adding an undergraduate seminar entitled, "The History of Princeton and influential Princetonians." I'm not sure if such a course has ever existed, but if not, now is the time. Students at Princeton, myself included, know very little about the history of our own institution. Most students can name Woodrow Wilson and sometimes James Madison as influential Princetonians, but most could tell you nothing about the Battle of Princeton or the fact that during the summer of 1783, the Continental Congress met in Nassau Hall making Princeton the nation's capital for four months.



Two of Princeton's leading citizens signed the Declaration of Independence and, in fact, a statue was recently erected to one of the signers, John Witherspoon. It would serve us well to study the life of Mr. Witherspoon. A Presbyterian minister and the sixth president of Princeton (then College of New Jersey), Witherspoon was also a steadfast patriot. He was one of the first clergymen in colonial America to openly support the Revolution against British tyranny and in 1776 he encouraged Princeton students to fulfill their duties to country, saying "when liberty, prosperity, and life are at stake, we must not think of being scholars, but soldiers."

The message of John Witherspoon remains relevant to all of us even today. He is not just some dead guy with a portrait in Nassau Hall. He represents the integrity and courage needed to make this country, and this University, truly great. Today, we are engaged in a similar war, fought on a different battlefield against a much different enemy; however, our principles remain unchanged. We cannot win this war against terrorism with military might alone—we must also seek truth and justice, while recognizing Divine Providence—and only then can freedom triumph. Once again, the words of Witherspoon remind us of our duty: "In times of difficulty and trial, it is in the man of piety and inward principle that we may expect to find the uncorrupted patriot, the useful citizen, and the invincible soldier."

The University is only doing itself, the nation, and the world an injustice by not teaching about Princeton's history. Men such as Witherspoon should never be forgotten.

Pete Hegseth '03

Please send Letters to the Editor to:
The Princeton Tory
P.O. Box 1499, Princeton, NJ 08542
e-mail: tory@princeton.edu

THE
PRINCETON TORY
May 2002 www.princetontory.com



Letters to the Editors
4 **Students respond to *Tory*:**

- Questioning Beck's Accuracy
- Hegseth Misunderstands Diversity
- An 'Anonymous' Letter

The Rant
6 **The *Tory* comments on:**

- Mothers Day
- Prof. Singer 'helping' children
- Princeton's bigotry
- LBJ and marriage
- The death of the Prog
- Abortion Appreciation Day and more...

Cover Story
Hear, O Israel: Vote Republican
Recent events should shift Jewish political loyalties.
Daniel Mark '03
PAGE 8

Campus
10 **West-ward, Ho!**
Cornel West spells trouble for Princetonians.
Eric Wang '02

11 **Spending Friday Night Alone?**
An honest assessment of the campus dating scene, beginning with the 1960's "free love" movement.
Jennifer Carter '03

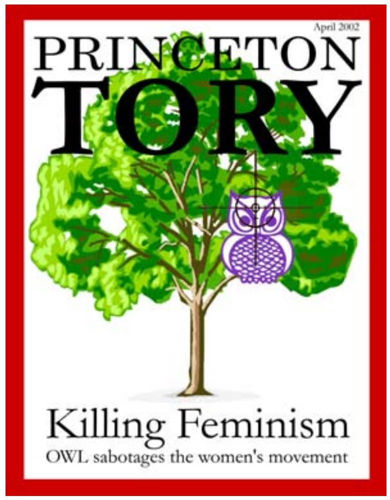
14 **A Degree in Doubt**
The classsic Princeton academic experience has disappeared amidst a sea of unbridaled relativism.
Brad Simmons '03 and *Nitesh Paryani '05*

16 **The View From Right Field**
A trip to the ballpark reminds us of the importance of family and the virtues of America's favorite pastime.
Ryan Feeney '03

Last Word
18 **Screeches and Ruffled Feathers**
Tory staffer attends the Glass Ceiling Conference and documents the irrelevance and absurdity of its message.
John Andrews '05

QUESTIONING BECK'S ACCURACY

I believe the *Tory*, like all publications, has the right to champion any view it pleases and publish whatever it sees fit. However, if the Tory wants to retain a readership, it must be a bit more selective in the material it chooses to include between its covers. I am referring to Brian Beck's article entitled "Princeton's New 'Useful Idiots,'" in the most recent issue. It stands in stark contrast to the intelligent panel discussion on the Middle East I observed recently, and truly does reflect poorly on the Tory as a whole. With only a cursory glance at this article, the factual flaws are glaring. The Palestinian Authority is not a country as Beck asserts, ("countries such as the Palestinian Authority") nor are the "blood-libelers" he speaks of in Saudi Arabia. Also, Beck's research for this article is exceedingly poor. "This reporter," writes Beck, found that the "Divest from Israel posters are written on the back of former SPEAC Living Wage posters," meaning that the two groups may be connected in some mysterious way. Could that reporter spend a few minutes more and simply ask the groups?



In the interest of open, informed and intelligent debate, I ask the Tory to supply the conservative view on issues in the same informed and intelligent manner that I have always known it to. After reading Beck's "Useful Idiots" article, I wonder if the pro-Palestinian groups on campus do not see him as just that.

Cullen Newton '04

Brian Beck responds:

Is the Palestinian Authority a country? Not currently, but an indirect goal of the divestment movement is for it to become a country. The PA has had authority over most of the West Bank since the Oslo accords, with little success. The West Bank remains in poverty, Palestinians are shot without trial by their own government for the crime of "collaborating" with Israel, and terrorist groups run rampant. The PA is not a country in the strictest sense, but it should be held to the standards of a responsible country if it wishes to become recognized as a separate nation.

If Mr. Newton doesn't think that Saudi Arabia is guilty of perpetuating blood libel, then he probably hasn't noticed news coverage concerning a recent Saudi newspaper article. That article accused Jews of killing gentile children and baking their blood into Purim pastries. The newspaper in which the article ran is state-run, so it must have the approval of the Saudi government. The editor claimed the article should not have been published, because it should have only said that Zionists drink the blood of Muslim children, not Jews as a whole. That is a blood libel, coming from that "great ally," Saudi Arabia.

As to the complaints about my inquiry into the connection between SPEAC and the divestment group, apparently Mr. Newton did not read the entire article. As I mentioned, I questioned the leader of a PCP/PPN rally—but he would not give his name. These groups are surprisingly reclusive when it comes to giving names or listing resources. It took a month for the divestment group to actually admit that it was a SPEAC subsidiary. It's not that I haven't asked these groups—it's that I haven't been able to get an answer. The fact remains that the pro-Palestinian groups on campus ignore the facts, condemn Palestinian terrorism only very weakly, if at all, and then try to hide from external review and avoid defending their positions.

HEGSETH MISUNDERSTANDS DIVERSITY

The note by Pete Hegseth in this month's Tory was an ironic reflection of Hegseth's lack of diversity in his own thinking. To believe that the purpose of Princeton is to educate its students in Western civilization is both a ludicrous and unfounded claim. The motto of Princeton University is currently: "In the nations service and in the service of all nations." Now, unless I misunderstood our campus mantra, such a statement is global rather than Western in focus. How does Princeton expect its students to be in the service of *all* nations if it doesn't know anything about them? In fact, because we have

been raised on Western civilization our entire lives, perhaps learning about the philosophy, history, and politics of other places is even more significant.

Lastly, to ignore or dismiss studying non-Western civilizations is simply downright dangerous. As demonstrated by September 11th, it is American smugness and arrogance regarding its own "enduring strength" as the "leader and protector of the civilized world" that makes other people hate us and want to blow us up. I find it interesting that Hegseth feels that his evaluations on Princeton's academic purpose are paramount to those of both President Tilghman and the official university mission statement.

Erin Wade '03

Pete Hegseth responds:

While my evaluation of Princeton's academic purposes may not be "paramount to" those of President Tilghman, certainly the evaluation of one Woodrow Wilson is. On the occasion of the sesquicentennial of Princeton University in 1896, then-Professor Woodrow Wilson said of Princeton's academic purpose, "It is the business of a University to impart to the rank and file of the men whom it trains the ***right*** *thought of the world, the thought which it has tested and established, the principles which have stood through the seasons and become at length part of the immemorial wisdom of the race." I agree with Mr. Wilson in that regard—that the University has a responsibility to educate its students in right thinking—not simply throw a bunch of disconnected ideas in their direction and hope they come out all right.*

I agree with you that Princetonians must study non-Western civilizations as part of their undergraduate experience; however, if the entire Princeton community concentrates too much on such pursuits the influence of our own traditions and institutions will begin to erode.

I strongly disagree with your assertion that America's "smugness and arrogance" is what caused September 11th. We are hated for supporting the existence of Israel, defending Kuwait and liberating Afghanistan—as well as having troops stationed on Saudi soil. These pursuits had nothing to do with American arrogance, but rather with our moral duty to defend weaker peoples from aggressive assaults. Anyone who blows himself or herself up or flies planes into buildings to protest American arrogance is merely displaying their own ignorance and hatred. A poll taken last month showed that over 70% of Arabs in the Middle East still believe that it was not Arabs, but Israelis, who perpetrated September 11th. It is their ignorance of foreign affairs (perpetrated by deliberate government propaganda), not ours, that really fuels hatred in the Muslim world. The United States should not change its policy, but instead be even more aggressive in supporting friendly, democratic governments in the Middle East. The only way this can happen is by having students who, while well-versed in non-Western ideas, have a firm grasp of Western ideas as well. That is the responsibility of this University.

An 'Anonymous' Letter

I just read your April 2002 issue and let me tell you, "The Rant," all I can say is f*** you you f***ing f***s. It's to (sic) bad all of you all weren't aborted. If Daschle, Lord and saviour of the feminine gender, were present he'd f*** you ignorant f***s…[censored]. Both in verbal debate and then physically. As for gays let them be you f***ing oppressive f***s. They want to be married so have it. You f***s are just f***ing jealous because you cannot admit you f***ing like being… [censored]. Go back to the 1940's you f***ing fascist f***s. That all.

F*** you,
Bjorn Nuwanda
p.s. Get f***ed.

The Editors respond:

Thanks for the letter, SETH DUNIPACE '03! We appreciate your enthusiastic and spirited (though 'anonymous') support for our magazine—as well as your intelligent commentary.

p.s. Next time, maybe you'll save us the trouble of tracking down your identity and accidentally beating up a guy named Bjorn Nuwanda (sorry about that, Bjorn).

THE RANT

- On Monday, April 22nd, OWL and SHARE put on an event entitled "Does Dating Violence Happen at Princeton?" We think one must first tackle the question "Does Dating Happen at Princeton?"

- The *Tory* salutes all mothers who choose to stay at home with their children. These women are the backbone of our society and courageously teach America's children about personal responsibility and moral conscience. In a society full of evil forces and corrupting influences, mothers have the ability to cut through the noise and sculpt new generations of informed and virtuous citizenry. God bless mothers…and stay at home dads too.

- At a recent lecture, Peter Singer addressed the topic, "What can we do to help children in poverty in developing countries?" Surprisingly, abortion and infanticide were not the first solutions proposed.

- It's practically cliche by now to talk about the hypocrisy of the liberal academy. But there are so many good opportunities. Recent appointee Cornel West is an outspoken supporter of prominent anti-Semites. He heads Al Sharpton's presidential exploratory committee. Al Sharpton once referred to a Jewish storeowner in Harlem as a "white interloper" and incited the burning of the store, causing several deaths. West also appeared at the Million Man March along side Louis Farrakhan, who openly hates Jews (not to mention white people in general). It seems unlikely that the University would have considered hiring associates of white supremacist David Duke as well. If the Left wants a monopoly on bigotry, it can have it, but wouldn't we be better off with no bigotry at all?

- Letter of the Year goes to David Whelan, Harvard Class of '99, who wrote the following to the Harvard Crimson after Cornel West compared Larry Summer to Ariel Sharon: "To complete the analogy, what does that make Prof. West? Yasser Arafat?"

- Kudos to White House counselor Karen Hughes for having the courage to put her family first. On April 23, President Bush's top aide announced that she would be leaving the West Wing this summer to return to her home state of Texas. "The president always says if you're a mom or a dad, your most important responsibility in life is to be a good mom or dad, and I believe that," she said. We couldn't agree more, and though she will be sorely missed in Washington, we wish her and her family the very best.

- Only one representative in Congress has consistently stood against America's war on terrorism. Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA), the representative from the Cal-Berkley area, refuses to acknowledge America's right to defend itself and makes repeated calls for appeasing and accommodating terrorists. Normally we would sarcastically wish Barbara good luck on her re-election campaign, however the scary part is, she actually represents the wishes of her constituency. Therefore, instead of wishing Barbara good luck, we would like to give our best to all the loopy liberals at Berkeley who are still grasping to find reality.

- This month's winner of the unlikely-friend-of-the-*Tory* award: the *Nassau Weekly*, who noted in their April 18 issue: "In 1970, the campus conservative movement was groundless and incoherent, and angry feminists tore it a new one. Now the roles have gone topsy-turvy." Next thing you know, OWL will give a chunk of its oversized endowment to the Tory.

- In February, President Bush introduced his welfare proposal with allocates $100 million a year to promote marriage and family. As expected, some

Democrats denounced the program in favor of more government babysitting (i.e. after-school programs and day-care). However, upon further historical investigation, liberals should reconsider their position. President Lyndon Johnson, the liberal hero and government program extraordinaire, made the following remarks in a civil rights address at Howard University in 1965: "The family is the cornerstone of our society. More than any other force it shapes the attitude, the hopes, the ambitions, and the values of the child. And when the family collapses it is the children that are usually damaged. When it happens on a massive scale the community itself is crippled. So, unless we work to strengthen the family, to create conditions under which most parents will stay together." We're with LBJ on this one.

➢ The *Tory* eagerly awaits the forthcoming liberal magazine from the College Democrats, which lefty Clint Wallace '04 has said will represent a perspective "not necessarily voiced on campus." (Gee, Clint, have you made it to lecture lately?) The magazine's leadership hinted at publishing a few issues before the semester's end (chuckle), as a "complement to the *Progressive Review*" - though we wonder how it's possible to complement a magazine that never publishes. Shouldn't you wait a few years before giving into bankruptcy and irrelevance?

➢ The ACLU recently declared March 10th "National Day of Appreciation for Abortion Providers." They were joined by such esteemed (and non-partisan?) organizations as the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights League and the National Organization for Women. While most abortion advocates, outside of the East Coast bubble, at least acknowledge that abortion is a necessary evil, these groups flaunt the virtues of abortion. It is one thing to argue for the right to abortion; it is another thing to celebrate abortions themselves. For the record, we don't "appreciate" abortion providers. In fact, if Bush wins another term and wins two battles with Senator Leahy and the Judiciary committee, the evil that is *Roe* may soon be overturned and abortion providers will be either out of work or in jail.

➢ The Supreme Court recently upheld the legality of 'virtual' child pornography. The decision will surely result in a flood of new 'virtual' child porn websites & magazines. God help us.

-Compiled by the Tory *Editors*

Hear, O Israel: Vote Republican

Daniel Mark '03

One day as I headed out of lecture in my College Republicans shirt, a classmate of mine inquired, "You're a Republican?" I responded in the affirmative, to which she replied, "That's funny, you don't look Republican." I was puzzled for a moment but quickly realized what she meant. "Oh, you mean because of my yarmulke." "Yeah," she confirmed.

I am a proud Jewish Republican. I even have a pin that says so. Conservatives who come to Princeton and suddenly find themselves awash in a sea of liberal ideology finally understand what life has always been like for me in the Jewish community. Being a Jewish Republican gives a whole new meaning to "the few, the proud." But we are far from being an endangered species. Mitch McConnell, the distinguished senator from Kentucky, remarked to me a couple years ago that demographic studies showed increasing identification with the Republican Party among younger Jewish cohorts. (I was wearing my pin and my yarmulke at the time.) Even so, I remain baffled by the knee-jerk liberalism of many in the Jewish community, and I would like to set forth an argument why it is grows increasingly important for Jews to vote Republican.

The definitive piece on why Jews should vote Republican was written by Dennis Prager in the November 1996 issue of "The Prager Perspective," so I will not repeat his arguments. Nonetheless, I would like to contribute some timely additions.

It seems almost hard to explain overwhelming Jewish support for the Democratic Party. On the whole, the American Jewish community has met with economic success, so financial considerations would anticipate support for the party of lower taxes. Surprisingly, Jews have typically favored Democratic presidential candidates by a margin of more than four to one. This suggests that the roots of Jewish loyalty to the party of higher taxes run very deep. Precisely for this reason, I contend that it is time for the Jewish community to reevaluate its commitments and put its political influence back up for bid.

> *"Here is the political paradox in all this: Eight out of ten American voters who are Jewish have been voting for candidates of a Democratic Party that now only tepidly supports the government overwhelmingly chosen by Israelis. Though foreign policy is not always decisive, perhaps that 80 percent should think again."* – William Safire

Before arriving at the specifics of my argument, it is important to point out that looser connections with the Democratic Party would behoove Jews regardless of the particular issues of the day. The nearly automatic support for Democrats means that the Democratic Party need spend little energy addressing the needs of Jewish community since it will get the votes anyway. At the same time, the Republican Party also has little incentive to court the Jewish vote since Jewish support for a Republican at the national level is unlikely. In sum, it means that neither party needs to care much about the Jews.

Today, though, with the escalating conflict in the Middle East, Jews have every reason to care about partisan politics. On April 15, over 100,000 people, mostly Jews, rallied in Washington, DC, in support of Israel. If they are serious about their support of Israel—and I believe they are—Jews must engage in serious conversation about which party is privy to Israel's interests. The contrast between George W. Bush and his predecessor, Hill-Billy Clinton, is stark. In a feverish rush to secure his ever-elusive Nobel Peace Prize, Clinton pressured then-Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak into offering concessions that cost Barak his political career. Clinton's self-aggrandizing efforts are partly responsible for Arafat's current war. And that was after Clinton sent his top political advisers to Israel to ensure that his candidate of choice, Barak, would handily defeat incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. I guess Clinton knew who he could push around. And I guess Barak owed Clinton one too many favors.

President Bush, by contrast, has been far more supportive of Israel. Despite allowing the State Department

to occasionally nip at Ariel Sharon's ankles, Bush has repeatedly recognized Israel's right to defend itself. Furthermore, the affirmation of Bush Doctrine articulated the principles that Israel rightfully applies in it own war on terror. So, even a cursory examination of the relationship between Israel and the American president scores one for the Republicans.

Of course, arguments such as this one are unlikely to overcome the Jewish community's unfailing devotion to Clinton and his Democrats. Instead, I would like to propose more fundamental reasons why, as a matter of American foreign policy, Israel is better off with the Republicans in power. Although I may be overly optimistic, I believe that both major parties recognize Israel as America's most reliable ally in the Middle East, due in no small part to it being the only free democracy in the region. Yet there is one reason why America remains beholden to the Arab world, despite the ideological and strategic convergence with Israel. That reason is oil. The memory of the OPEC-induced shortages of the 1970s is not far off. Only increased independence from Arab oil will allow the United States to pursue an agenda of freedom from totalitarian regimes for the people of the Middle East. Only energy self-sufficiency will allow the US to support Israeli democracy without fear of reprisals from petroleum-exporting dictators. Americans and Israelis are not the only ones who interests are harmed by this dependence. Most fundamentally, the peoples of the exporting countries suffer because the absolutist governments are propped up by those who benefit from the purchase of oil. Most recently, energy independence has presented itself in the form of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). True to their cause, Democrats have blocked oil exploration in ANWR, despite environmental safeguards and calls for the project by local citizens. Republicans, on the other hand, have pushed the program and continue to advocate greater energy independence. To be sure, in a perfect world, new, cleaner technologies would displace the gigantic need for oil. We, however, must realize that substantial developments in such technologies are a long way in coming. As a result, it is imperative that Jews who are sincere in their support for Israel support the party that will give America a freer hand in dealing with the Middle East.

Energy policy is not the only Republican issue which appeals to Jews. After Clinton gutted the military, President Bush embarked on a policy of resupplying our soldiers with equipment and morale. His commitment to missile defense and a strong defense program in general is of great benefit to Israel. The US not only supports Israel's own defense program but also engages in joint defense ventures, including the development of the Arrow missile that may intercept any further Scuds that Saddam Hussein aims at Tel-Aviv.

Even though American Jews have snubbed their noses at the Republican Party, conservative Americans have been much kinder to Jews than have liberal Americans. A strong portion of the aforementioned 100,000 who gathered in DC to show support for Israel were comprised of the Religious Right. Conservative pundits and politicians, from Alan Keyes to Senator Bill Frist '74, have proven themselves time and again to be Israel's strongest non-Jewish supporters. A recent Gallup study showed increasing support for Israel among conservatives and Republicans and decreasing support among liberals and Democrats. In 1988, Republicans' sympathies were with the Israelis over the Palestinians by a margin of 43% to 18% while the Democrats favored Israel 37% to 13%. By 1993, it was 49% to 12% for Republicans and 37% to 19% for Democrats. This trend continued through the 1990s.

So if the Right has made its credentials clear, where does the Left stand these days? On our own campus, SPEAC, the all-purpose left-wing activist group, has adopted the pro-Palestinian cause, specifically the anti-Israel divestment campaign that absurdly compares Israel to apartheid South Africa. Candid members of the group revealed at the table they manned in Frist that they knew next to nothing about the Middle East. They were there simply because anti-Israel activism has joined the menu of left-wing causes. Less than a week after the pro-Israel rally, thousands of leftists gathered in DC to rally against everything from Israel to capitalism to globalization.

The evidence is clear. As conservatives stand up for Israel in this time of travail, liberals grow louder in their condemnation of her self-defense. Jews in America must take a hard look at their priorities and interests and reevaluate their political alignment.

West-ward, Ho!

Princeton takes a giant step back.

Eric Wang '02

Much ado has been made about Professor Cornel West's very public and ugly spat with Harvard President Lawrence Summers and his defection back to Princeton. As everyone knows by now, their dispute purportedly arose when Summers chided West for producing a "rap" CD instead of more "scholarly" work, which prompted West's angry response that he had been "disrespected." But these details have created a distraction, perhaps deliberately planned by West, from the fundamental objections to be raised about his reappointment and the accompanying calls for making the African-American Studies Program a University department.

The issue is not Professor West's temperament or his radical politics, which recently resulted in a civil disobedience arrest. In this respect, West would bring some much-welcomed excitement to this sleepy college town. Nor is the issue the quantity, quality, or even the form of his scholarship. Rather, it is the content of his work that is concerning. Although purveyors of the avant-garde in political correctness—namely, academics and cultural elites—have eagerly acclaimed West as a revolutionary thinker, the title of his 1993 book "Race Matters" suggests otherwise. In reality, West espouses the same old racialist worldview that threatens to asphyxiate our discourse on race. This thinking is also the impetus that drives the African-American Studies department proposal.

It is especially ironic that Professor West has called himself an "intellectual freedom-fighter," since he adheres to an ideology that enslaves the mind and shackles the soul and impedes all interracial interpersonal relationships. It is one thing to observe that race matters. Scholars can trace the roots of race and racial iniquities all they want, and they should, for it is important to understand the historical origins behind the alienation that many minorities feel today and the institutional impediments they continue to face. However, it takes far more



vision to also point to a way out—to a day when race does not matter.

Therein lies the problem with creating an African-American Studies department. The problem is not that African-American Studies is not a discipline (as one *Daily Princetonian* opinion piece has aptly noted, Public policy is not a discipline either) but we have no problem with making the Woodrow Wilson School an interdisciplinary department that encompasses all the social sciences. Many who advocate an African-American Studies department might have something like the Wilson School in mind. However, the real problem is that such a department would be inherently political—not in the sense of liberal or conservative, but in the sense that its very establishment expresses a particular view that African-Americans should exist in a separate sphere. This is a great disservice for all those—black or white—who are concerned with the racial balkanization of our country.

Granted, much of our racial problems today stem from the fact that many African-Americans have lived and continue to live in a separate sphere, having been shut out of government, the economy, and the larger society for so long by slavery, segregation, and simple racism. This makes the African-American experience important to study. But conferring departmental status would only further entrench this divide by legitimizing this separation instead of treating it as something to be studied within the broader context of the American experience.

In fact, African-American Studies would not make much sense without a grounding in American history. For example, the great civil rights struggle cannot be understood without the intellectual background of the Founders and their Lockean theories of government. While the Founders happened to be white and many were incorrigible racists, it was their basic principles that mattered. Civil rights leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr. evoked those principles to point to the fact that they remained unfulfilled, and that only when we lived up to them could we realize the Founders' ideal of a "more perfect union." The successes of the NAACP, which was founded by black lawyers who saw litigation as a way to break down legal barriers, cannot be understood without a grounding in American constitutional law.

Yet, ethnic studies and the culture of multiculturalism have encouraged a view

among minorities that the history of "dead white men" is, at the very least, irrelevant to them and at most, a racist racket. Thus, in crucial American history and politics classes, minorities seem to constitute one to two percent of the class, despite the fact that they supposedly make up 29% of the student body. The sad irony is that these are the classes that are crucial to providing an account of our country's racial progress and the way forward. But racialists and multiculturalists seem to prefer that we go our separate ways with distinct histories and futures.

More than thirty years after the height of the civil rights struggle, we have achieved legal equality for all citizens, but there is much work that remains to be done. We must breach the persistent socio-economic gap for African-Americans and other minorities. However, we cannot resolve these problems simply by creating remedial institutional advantages or redistributing wealth, as many have suggested. We cannot pretend that these problems are not mutually exclusive from the continued insistence on viewing the world through the lens of race now, race tomorrow, and race forever. For even if we could eliminate disparities in wealth, health, power, and what have you, all we would end up with is a new and improved version of "separate but equal" in which different races, reinforced by separate academic departments for their respective groups, view each other as being of inherently different worlds.

More than thirty years after the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was tragically cut short, America's well-intentioned but misguided cultural elite has sold out his dream to the bankrupt ideology of multiculturalism. To borrow a device that former President Clinton used to great effect in addressing King's legacy, we should pose a question to ourselves: If Martin Luther King, Jr. were to reappear today and give us a report card on the last thirty years, what would he say? Whereas in his "I Have a Dream" speech he saw a day when "little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers," he would look at our campuses today and say that he meant to include college students as well. He would say that he did not live and die to see black students and white students clustering around separate dining tables and taking mutually exclusive classes, with little interaction in their everyday lives.

Whereas Dr. King implored us to strive for "a day not of the white man, not of the black man," but a day when we would view "man as man," he would look at our campuses today and say that he meant to include our academic studies as well. He would say that he did not live and die to see black students and white students regarding each other as being of separate groups and feeling that their histories and traditions had to be studied in distinct academic departments. The truth is that the histories of African-Americans and white Americans are inextricably intertwined, for better or for worse. Our challenge today is to overcome racism's historical legacy and to make the future better for everyone, regardless of race. If our social sciences or humanities departments are not giving the African-American experience its just due, then that is something we must resolve within those departments, rather than tear our campuses and social fabric asunder along racial fault lines.

Dr. King may not have spoken for everyone—black or white, but he spoke for all those of good conscience who sought genuine racial harmony and reconciliation and progress. Instead, we are in danger today of allowing the fringe to hijack our social discourse and our academic institutions to promulgate their radical and regressive separatist agenda. If Princeton truly wanted to be at the forefront of a revolution in thinking and research, it would not have re-hired Dr. West. Rather, it would have recruited from the ranks of the most grossly underrepresented minority in academia—racial modernists. It would not advance an anachronistic aim of an African-American Studies department.

To be truly avant-garde, Princeton would establish a department of racial modernism to advance a roadmap for a future in which race is irrelevant. This is the best hope for an enlightened society that is respectful of individuals and that is at peace with itself. In the context of racial reconciliation, this is the greatest service that Princeton could give to our nation.

Spending Friday Night Alone?

Jennifer Carter '03

No one dates at Princeton — a fairly common complaint among Princeton undergrads. Yet unlike most other dysfunctions of student life, there is no USG committee presently discussing the issue and very little personal initiative being taken by anyone to change the situation.

Why not? In an attempt to investigate this state of affairs, the *Tory* conducted a survey of the dating behaviors of 75 Princeton undergraduates, half men and half women, during the week of April 15, 2002.

Our data confirms what everyone already knows: Princeton students don't date much. How much is not much? We found that the average student, excluding students still involved in pre-Princeton relationships, goes on 1.5 "first dates" per year. If that's not sad enough, consider this: 42% of "first dates" reported were official date-required affairs (formals, semi-formals, Houseparties, etc.).

Clearly the quantity of dates is a bit discouraging. What about quality? It seems that most people are disappointed on that front too. We asked students to describe their most recent date, and then their "ideal"

date. The charts tell the story of a tremendous gap between people's ideals and their realities. The traditional dinner date did well in both questions — a safe bet for a first date, to be sure. But interestingly enough, over half of our respondents listed "unusual/ creative" or "inexpensive event" as their ideal date types, categories that barely registered in the reality responses.

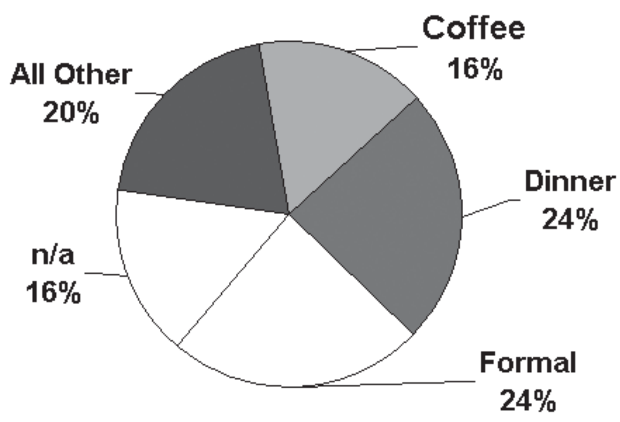
Who's doing the asking? Men, by a 3-to-1 ratio — which means that a reassuring 25 percent of dates are initiated by women. It seems that women are stepping out of their comfort zone to get the ball rolling: when asked who would initiate their "ideal date," 86 percent of women said men should do the asking. Men agreed, but with less enthusiasm: 24 percent responded that the woman would initiate their ideal date.

The moral of this story: guys, we'd appreciate it if you'd ask us out, so please do — but we're not afraid to take matters into our own hands. Ladies, a significant portion of men would love to be asked out, so go for it. Don't worry about not having money or impressing your date with a fancy, high-pressure dinner. Our survey results suggest that a fun and wallet-friendly event like a movie, a campus show or athletic event, or something different like a picnic on the golf course will do just fine — or better.

To us, 1.5 dates a year seems pretty lame, so we asked survey respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with their own personal dating experience at Princeton. Men and women reported nearly equivalent levels of satisfaction. Overall, just over half of all respondents said they were "mostly" or "extremely" dissatisfied, while slightly under half reported being "mostly" or "extremely" satisfied.

Why so many satisfied people, if no one dates? Well, as many as reported being satisfied also reported being in a serious relationship. More often than not, though, these relationships do not emerge from a traditional dating scenario.

Generally, there is no extended getting-to-know-you period of courtship; people go straight from friends or strangers to confirmed coupledom, "going out" just like in junior high.



Most Recent Date

Except that in college, going out means spending significant amounts of time together on a daily basis: eating, studying, and sleeping together regularly, more or less attached at the hip.

How do we explain this all-or-nothing approach to dating? Well, it doesn't take a brilliant sociological rationalization. Quite simply, it's the result of the potent combination of hormones, repressed emotional neediness, the small residential environment of the college, and a hefty fear of failure on the part of Princeton students.

Let's face it: from a cappella tryouts to eating club Bicker, Princetonians don't deal well with being hosed. We have been successful at pretty much everything for all our lives, which is what landed us a "YES!" letter from Dean Fred in the first place. And after getting over those first painful rejections freshman year, we get quickly reaccustomed to a life of success. I believe one student's survey comments capture the situation rather nicely: "I don't really want to bother 'dating around,'" she writes. "I'd rather get to know someone through activities or friends, and only start dating if there's mutual interest and real potential for a long-term relationship."

It's not surprising that at Princeton, even romance is described in terms of cost-benefit analyses and "Organization Kid" time optimization. If it isn't on a syllabus or sent to us in an e-mail entitled "This Week's Campus Events," it's just not going to happen. But dating, unlike the other things we do to fill up our time and our résumés, should be special. And that's really what's at stake here. When we say we wish people dated more, we mean quality, not quantity. We want romantic intentions to be made clear as we are getting to know someone, rather than ambiguously flirting with our roommates' lab partners until we run into each other drunk at the Street and are able to express our mutual interest. We crave physical contact so badly that many of us brave the moral taboo of drunken hookups — our most basic instincts

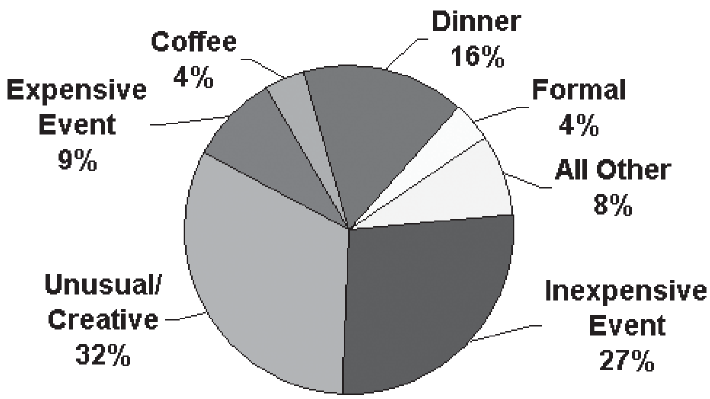
won't be silenced, even if we choose not to schedule time to deal with them in a more rational, civilized manner.

There will always be those that say, as one survey respondent did, "I believe that dating in college is a useless waste of time. People should be getting an education. Dating is better done later on in life." Fortunately, most of us don't believe that. We realize that part of the value of an education — especially the sort one gets at Princeton — is about learning how to interact with people and establishing connections that will last well beyond the Fitz-Randolph gates. 96 percent of those surveyed said that marriage is in their long-term goals, and given Princeton's high alumni-to-alumnae marriage rate, surely many of those 96 percent are hoping to meet their future spouse during their undergraduate years.

So why don't people date — do we blame the breakdown of traditional family values? As much as social conservatives like myself tend to attribute many of society's woes to the death of the family, this just cannot be said for Princeton. Ivy League students come from stable, two-parent families at a drastically higher proportion than their peers and aspire to the same.

Nonetheless, the anti-family, anti-values "free love" movement that swept through our parents' generation has indeed taken its toll on ours. The 1960s Left rejected the *Ozzie and Harriet* family values that defined their baby boomer upbringing but left nothing in their place. Society offers our generation little help. Thanks to free love, we are taught how to use a condom but not how to find a mate.

I'm not advocating a return to the 1950s — a decade, after all, in which women were offered the career options of "mommy, teacher, or nurse." I am warning against the libertine attitudes toward our sexuality that are a direct spinoff of the 1960s and are manifested every Thursday and Saturday night in the campus phenomenon known as the hookup.



Ideal Date

Hookups — isolated sexual encounters ranging from kissing to intercourse, often under the influence of alcohol, that carry no expectation of a relationship — they happen, but how much? Well, surprisingly, not as much as you might think. Our survey showed an average of 6.5 hookups per student, yet a median of just 1, indicating that a few serial hooker-uppers are seriously inflating the average — and everyone's perceptions. The bottom line: not everybody's doing it.

Princeton students, though fearful of failure, are nonetheless highly success-driven and goal-oriented. We have to ask, then, why don't students pursue their goal of marriage with the same intensity as their goal of becoming a doctor, consultant, or President? Maybe we've never thought of it that way — and on this charge, I think we can blame society.

Our parents' generation devalued traditional courtship and left nothing in its place for us. Hollywood is no help, filling our subconscious with stories of perfect romance, finding The One, and happily-ever-after endings. This is not a uniquely Princeton problem; throughout the country, our generation is lonely and completely at a loss for how to deal with it.

Snap out of it. Right now you are surrounded by the smartest, most beautiful, most outgoing people you are ever going to meet. Annoyed that no one dates? Then go out on a limb yourself; do something about it. Ask out that girl or guy you've talked to a couple times and think is nice. Sure, they might say no — but more likely, they'll be so stunned that someone is actually asking them out that they'll say yes, they'd love to. And if someone asks you out, for goodness sake, give them at least a first chance. One date doesn't even obligate you to talk to the other person again if it's truly disastrous.

Despite what society tells us, relationships are work. And if we want the immense emotional and physical fulfillment that comes with being in a relationship, we'll have to actively work toward it. I don't mean to lower romance to the level of a problem set or a JP, but maybe it wouldn't hurt to look at it that way. Your thesis didn't write itself — and more likely than not, you're not going to wake up next to The One after a night at the Street. What are you waiting for?

A Degree in Doubt

An argument for greater depth in the Princeton academic experience

Brad Simmons '03
Nitesh Paryani '05

What does a Princeton degree actually represent? These days, the degree primarily reflects one's presumed talent for having been *admitted* to the university, rather than one's achievement in graduating therefrom. More disturbing still is that this general perception is pretty accurate. The oft-referred-to "Princeton experience," ideally conveying a sense of the rich academic experiences shared by university alumni, is gradually disappearing.

The following true story illustrates this general trend. During a road trip, Jones (a friend of ours) engaged in a lengthy conversation about American foreign policy with another Princetonian – lets call him Smith. After a short time it became evident to Jones that Smith, a senior in the Politics Department, was not well versed in the basics of American political history. So, half in jest, Jones posed the question to Smith: what countries formed the Axis Powers during World War II? To Jones' astonishment, Smith was only able to muster up Germany, and that was after considerable prompting. We don't consider ourselves experts on American foreign policy, but even Brad's ten-year old brother could at least name Germany and Italy (and probably Japan as well).

How could someone slip through the cracks like that? Because at best, the shared experiences of Princeton undergrads consist only of participation in ritualistic social events and the submission of an unusually long paper a month prior to leaving campus. At worst, the Princeton experience has lost its academic coherence entirely.

Part of the problem is that people start with differing assumptions. Confusion about Princeton's purpose as an institution makes it difficult to come to a consensus on what it *should* do. We feel confident in asserting, nonetheless, that a primary objective for the university community is to provide a structured, purposeful liberal arts education to the student body.

> Seeking expertise in everything leaves us with no expertise at all.

This is not happening. At least, not nearly to the degree that it used to in American higher education, and definitely not as much as it ought to. A few sensible observations are in order.

A Shared Experience?

There is no central academic experience for Princeton liberal arts majors. Much can be (and has been) said about the freshman seminar and senior thesis programs, but we refuse to accept that two course-equivalents bookending a four-year journey make the journey itself one ripe with learning.

There are certainly times when students naturally flock together to conquer a collective evil: junior papers, Dean's Date, final exams, theses. Note, however, that these shared experiences typically involve overcoming obstacles (where the obstacle is academic work), rather than constituting positive learning experiences approached by students with wide eyes and open minds. Worse yet, these events are just that: time-limited *events* – not continuous experiences – occurring once or twice a year.

Undoubtedly, these experiences eventually provide some lasting benefit to students, giving us a sense of accomplishment and teaching us an interesting form of mental endurance. But the same could be said of banging one's head against a wall (one might even confuse these incidents for each other, based on happenings the week before theses are due). More importantly, for faculty and administrators to point to specific instances of supposed enlightenment is to ignore the underlying question about the *continuity* of our time here. It's not too much to ask that everyday activities for liberal arts majors, particularly precepts and lectures, demand that students engage in discussion and thought.

Contrast this with the curriculum structure and academic scene surrounding most engineers and natural science majors. Students must take

certain survey courses which, while generally rigorous, are foundational in the learning process. A physics major, for instance, typically begins with a tough introductory course sequence, without which most of the upper-level course material would be inaccessible. Likewise, electrical engineers must accomplish certain tasks – including the construction of a working engine – before graduating. No exceptions. Naturally, one tends to find students in these ostensibly more rigorous concentrations conversing over dinner and into the night about the course material. Their academic interests become a significant part of their campus lives. Too often students label this as boring or "uncool"; is this the kind of attitude we should expect from students at an institution like Princeton?

Imagine similar knowledge-based requirements for graduating liberal arts majors. Every anthropology major would be required to understand and articulate the importance of Clifford Geertz's contributions to the field; every economics major would be compelled to explain and take a stance on the proper role of the Fed in monetary policy; and, yes, graduating politics majors would ideally know the Axis Powers in World War II.

In years past, students at elite universities prided themselves on the substance of their educations – what they learned, read, and wrote in college. An English major had not just skimmed *Othello* or looked up a summary written by a Harvard student on the Internet, but had in fact *read* it. A student of politics genuinely knew and appreciated the classic texts in political theory, rather than sliding through with the ability to associate misleading catch phrases with seemingly famous authors ("Machiavelli: ends justify means," "Locke: natural rights," "Marx: to each/from each…").

In fact, an assessment of the academic requirements of elite institutions conducted by the National Association of Scholars, appropriately titled "The Dissolution of General Education," reveals that this de-emphasis on content-based learning is emblematic of a larger trend. Fewer mandatory survey courses and drastic reductions in courses requiring prerequisites are hallmarks of the modern college. Throw in a distribution requirement system that treats ridiculous weather experiments in "Shake 'n Bake" as concrete scientific learning experiences, and the "substance" of the typical Princeton experience is put into perspective.

> By championing the notion that all ideas are equal, leftists ignore the fact that, well, they're not.

The ability of students to study a variety of ideas is not the source of the problem. After all, the purpose of a liberal arts education is to create a well-rounded individual; this, necessarily, can only be done by pursuing a diverse plan of study. At issue is the fact that students often pursue these diverse curricula at the expense of gaining a strong foundation in a particular field. Breadth of exposure has come to supplant depth of understanding.

Much of this can be attributed to the left's relativistic approach to education. By championing the notion that all ideas are equal, leftists ignore the fact that – well, they're not. As with the pure sciences, certain literary, political, and historical concepts are foundational to understanding more advanced notions within their respective fields. Even if we were to accept this liberal contention, the fact remains that Princeton students today get by without actually knowing that which they have studied. Seeking expertise in everything leaves us with no expertise at all.

Time for Change

So what options does this leave us with? For starters, let it be said that heightening student workloads is not the answer. (To some extent, the opposite is desirable: if students actually had free time, more detailed exploration of their course material could be expected and attained.)

Rather, the solution lies in balancing students' exposure to a wide range of ideas with the goal of encouraging deeper understanding of those ideas. This is an admittedly complex task. It also happens to be *the* central objective of any institution providing a meaningful education in the arts and sciences. The difficulty of this educational balance does not excuse the failure to achieve it.

This problem is not one that we can continue to ignore. The prestige attached to Princeton – which is simultaneously attached its students and alumni – is well grounded, at least for the time being. If we continue, however, to churn out students who lack both a shared academic experience and a deep understanding of the subject in which they are concentrating (or of anything besides binge drinking, for that matter), the power of Princeton's once-touted diploma will be no more.

A View from Right Field

The Virtues of Baseball

Ryan Feeney '03

"Dad, has the game started yet?"

If you grew up in my house, you knew exactly what that meant, and it made you laugh every single time. Let me explain. When I was in the third grade, my dad took all of us to a Giants game at Candlestick Park in sunny San Francisco. It was the fourth inning and the G-men had already scored two on a home run by Will Clark. I was intently watching the game with my glove on (just in case) when my freckle-faced, six-year-old sister, previously indisposed by her chocolate malt (which she apparently decided to wear rather than eat), posed that most infamous question.

I'll never forget the way she looked, or the way my dad laughed, or the way that I, as a sophisticated, sports-loving nine-year-old, could not believe that a person could be at that game and fail to notice a) that the game had indeed started, and b) that the Thrill went deep.

To this day, almost twelve years later, those words have only one meaning when someone mentions them at the dinner table. The laughter and series of blushes from my sister push any problems to the backs of our minds.

Our common joy at the remembrance of our trip to the ballpark way back when reminds me of all that we've been through and all the good times we've had. At those moments, the word "family" starts to make just a little bit more sense.

That ballpark memory is one of so many that stands out in my mind. I remember sitting in the bleachers on sunny days, drumstick in hand. I remember the calls of the vendor alerting me that he had "Peanuts, Heeeere!", the crack of the bat, and the roar of the crowd. I remember the feeling I got when I saw my baseball heroes for the first time "in real life." But most of all, I remember talking baseball with my dad. It was always tough for him to get away from the rigors of his work, but when we got the chance to, we found our way out to the Stick.

I remember trading baseball cards with my little brother (time has given me the presence of mind to acknowledge that "swindling" would probably be a better word than "trading," but there were some good deals, I swear). Once, I even convinced my brother that Candy Maldonado was just as good as Barry Bonds, and we made the trade. Thanks for that one bro.

I remember my mom, always making sure I had an extra coat for those night games. She was probably more excited for me than even I was. And of course, my sister, who never really made it back to the park after her instant of notoriety. She never was quite sure what all the fuss was about. The games were great, and the treats were good, but looking back, the memories that are clearest in my mind have nothing to do with athletic feats or Red Ropes. I remember being with my dad and my brother and sometimes even my mom and sister, and my best memories from the park always include them.

Like the time my dad left his seat to make a phone call and a foul ball bounced *off his seat* into the lap of the person seated behind him. That's still the closest I've ever come to catching one. Or the time he thought the game was over and we should leave early. When we pulled into the garage of our house, my brother and I turned on the radio just in time to hear Matt Williams hit the game-winning homer in the 13th inning for the Giants. I don't think he's ever lived that one down. And of course, wrapped up in blankets at one of the "Croix de Candlestick" extra-inning games, asking my mom for some more hot



chocolate, but (of course) my brother finished it. Thanks for that one too.

I've even had the opportunity to wear the other shoe. My youngest brother is 12 years old, and my being thousands of miles away from home has not done wonders for our relationship. He's into skateboarding, cartoons, and candy and I like skiing, sports, and, well, candy.

But last summer I had the opportunity to take him out to Pac Bell Park. Despite our differences and the little time we spend together, being at a game with him seemed to makes us both forget about all that stuff. We were brothers at a baseball game. We saw Barry Bonds take one deep. And we talked. We talked about me and about him and about baseball and it was great. The game was in a different park than the one I'd grown up with, and there were different players making a whole lot more money, but it was still baseball. And there were still Red Ropes. And we were, above all else, brothers.

The point of all this is that the ballpark is a family place. There is something about the purity of baseball that has kept it above the other major sports in this respect. There are no crazy, mask-wearing fans, or cheerleaders, or loud music, or other major distractions. There's just the game. When you go to the game with your family, you watch the game, and you talk to the people you're with. Nothing else. And that's why the ballpark is a place where real family bonding occurs.

The first time I went to a Giants game was the first time I felt like I was cool enough to really hang out with the coolest guy I knew, my dad. The ballpark is a place where you go as a kid thinking that you're going to watch your heroes, not realizing that the real heroes are the ones sitting next to you the whole time.

Even in an era where so many people have a skewed perception of what real family values are, it's still true that when you see a young kid out at a ballgame with his or her family, you know that's what family is all about. Seeing a family out at a game with their little one just gives you that feeling—that all is right with the world. So here's to baseball. May it continue to create memories and build families for years to come.

Screeches and Ruffled Feathers

The OWL "Breaking the Glass Ceiling" Conference in Review

John Andrews '05

"This is so cowardly," declared Nancy Ippolito '03, clutching a stack of issues of the April *Princeton Tory*. "That they [distributors of the Tory] would just leave these here and not debate us face to face." Ippolito's Organization of Women Leaders nametag proclaimed her "Co-Founder and Co-President," which might seem remarkable until one considers that OWL's web site lists twenty-seven officers, including three "co-social chairs." (Résumé padding, anyone?) Regardless, the co-ed co-president then proceeded to unceremoniously dispose of the issues beneath a table laden with OWL propaganda, including extra-small T-shirts bearing the slogan "Not Just Hooters." I later realized the metaphorical significance of her action; the entire conference dispensed with legitimate discussion in favor of the inane catechism of "tube-top" feminism (see Jennifer Carter's article in April's issue).

The inanity was off to a running start with the first panel, "Women in the Financial Sector." This panel was marked by unabashed female chauvinism. The first panelist, Michaela Walsh, formerly of J.P. Morgan's world credit research division, argued that women are ethically superior to men in the financial sector. She saw her position as that of "guardian of the values," which she held to be "the right job for a woman." She stated that "my performance-based reputation and integrity fool-proofed my career against the guys who might have shot me dead a long time ago." That high performance and high integrity do not always coincide is one of the harsh realities of business, but such discrepancies are in no way restricted to males.



The second and third panelists, Lisa Black of TIAA-CREF and Margaret Cannella of J.P. Morgan, believed that women were harder workers than men, portraying men as sports-crazed simpletons. Cannella presented a series of statistics such as that within the U.S. Army, men took more leave due to sports injury than did women due to maternity. From the Managing Director of J.P. Morgan Securities, such presentation reflects a minimal grasp of the proper use of statistics. Anyone with an ounce of common sense would realize that since the Army is predominantly male, its statistics are inconsequential to the overall likelihood of individuals taking leave. Furthermore, childbirth is reserved exclusively to women, while sport is open to both genders (as demonstrated by the president of the WNBA in a later speech at the conference). Finally, such a statistic is of even less use in application to the business world because Army life encourages sport but not reproduction. However, with nods and grunts of approval, the audience uncritically accepted these meaningless statistics as *prima facie* evidence of female superiority in the workplace. It also devoured Black's anecdotal evidence: Black argued that business practice is obfuscated by "man-like sports metaphor" and told a personal story of a committee where the seven men went to the Masters' golf tournament and left the three women with all the work.

I had begun to suspect that the entire conference would be similarly meaningless until Bonnie Reitz, the next speaker, gave her presentation. Reitz, in fact, had just come from the Masters' where she, as Continental Airlines' Senior V.P. of Sales and

Distribution, had hosted Continental's clients. She encouraged the young women present to play *more* golf, as it was a good way to form business relationships. She differed with the previous panel on more than just golf: "You can take any statistic you want and support whatever argument you want to make." She restricted her use of statistics to ratios of businesswomen in prominent positions, a reasonable method of comparison. Indeed, it is striking that among the Fortune 500, there are only six women CEO's. Yet Reitz declined to ascribe even this disparity to any sort of "glass ceiling," partially because "men are statistically more qualified." "Men don't deliberately exclude you," she told the conference. "You have to insert yourself… you can get whatever you want; you just have to keep working at it." She also rejected the necessity of superiority through performance: "I never worried about having to prove myself by doing more." To resolve the scarcity of women in upper management, Reitz called for building workplace relationships between the genders rather than sex-discrimination lawsuits. I was struck by the dichotomy between "business-suit" feminism and OWL's "tube-top" variety – between Reitz's eloquent, mature, and charming address and Publicity Chair Akila Raman '04's use of the word "like" five times in a sentence and her floor question "What can we [women] do to make ourselves more marketable?"

After several hours at a conference with the ostensible topic of the "glass ceiling," I naturally wondered if any of the speakers would actually confirm its existence. Finally, at the "Women in Academia" panel, Deborah Nord, director of Women's Studies, alleged "overt and pure discrimination" against women in terms of tenures and salaries given by universities. It will be instructive to see if such "discrimination" ceases under Princeton's new administration, of which women occupy the two most powerful positions. Joyce Carol Oates was more circumspect. She professed to have no proof of discrimination during her rise as a writer and an academic and said, "I really don't know the answers." Oates's maxim, "As a writer, one transcends gender," should be applied to all professions. Excessive concentration on gender, as on race, with the purpose of proving incidents to be discrimination, can do more harm than good to relations between the parties. Rather, employers – from J.P. Morgan to Princeton University – should consider each individual on his or her own merit. This notion of equality is nurtured by the business-suit feminists, who seek to transcend gender – and injured by OWL revisionists, who seek to flaunt it.

By the end of the day, no *Tory* cover story was needed to point out the glaring tensions between OWL's lipservice to feminism and the feminism actually lived out by their accomplished guests. Nonetheless, I would like to have asked Ippolito and her colleagues whether it is not more cowardly to suppress the voice of dissent – to remove magazines placed on distant tables accompanied by signs reading "Free – Take One."

It is quite possible that, had the staff of the *Tory* met Ippolito's challenge, they would have been promptly escorted out at OWL's request. With alternative viewpoints so thoroughly stifled, the "conference" would be better labeled as Stalinoid polemic. As the polemicists did a pretty good job of contradicting each other, though, formal dissent proved unnecessary. One might consider the conference a debate or a jeremiad, but, outside of the presentations of Reitz and Oates, one must consider it a failure either way.

THE PRINCETON TORY
P.O. BOX 1499
PRINCETON, NJ 08542

First
Class